

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application and are rejected in the Office Action dated April 20, 2007. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-11, 13, 14, 16 and 17 are amended herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

Re: Claims 1-18

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the IEEE 1394a-2000 standard (hereinafter, "the IEEE 1394 standard"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection since the IEEE 1394 standard fails to teach or suggest all elements of the claimed invention.

Applicants first note that amended independent claims 1, 7 and 13 recite:

"detecting, via said apparatus, initiation of a disconnection from said external device;

determining, via said apparatus, if said external device is in a play mode after said initiation of said disconnection from said external device is detected;

automatically providing a pause command signal from said apparatus to said external device via said data bus if said external device is determined to be in said play mode; and

disconnecting said apparatus from said external device after providing said pause command signal. (see claim 1)

"input/output means for connecting said apparatus to an external device via a data bus;

processing means for detecting initiation of a disconnection from said external device; and

wherein said input/output means automatically outputs a pause command signal to said external device via said data bus if said apparatus determines that said external device is in a play mode after said initiation of said disconnection from said external device is detected by said processing means." (see claim 7), and

"an input/output terminal operative to connect said television signal receiver to an external device via a data bus;

a processor operative to detect initiation of a disconnection from said external device; and

wherein said input/output terminal automatically outputs a pause command signal to said external device via said data bus if said television signal receiver determines that said external device is in a play mode after said initiation of said disconnection from said external device is detected by said processor." (see claim 13)

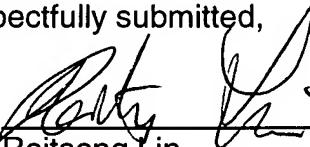
As indicated above, amended independent claims 1, 7 and 13 recite a method and apparatus that detects initiation of a disconnection from an external device over a data bus. The apparatus automatically outputs a pause command signal to the external device via the data bus if the apparatus determines that the external device is in a play mode after initiation of the disconnection from the external device is detected. Support for these features of independent claims 1, 7 and 13 may be found, for example, in FIG. 3 (and its accompanying description) of Applicants' specification.

The IEEE 1394 standard fails to teach or suggest at least the foregoing features of independent claims 1, 7 and 13. Applicants note that the cited portions of the IEEE 1394 standard (i.e., section 4.4.4), as best understood, deal with states related to port connections in an IEEE 1394 environment, and do not teach or suggest, *inter alia*, the desirability of detecting the specific operating mode (e.g., play mode) another bus device is in at the time of disconnection. Accordingly, the cited portions of the IEEE 1394 standard nowhere teach or suggest, *inter alia*, a method or apparatus capable of determining if an external device is in a play mode after initiation of a disconnection from the external device is detected, and automatically providing a pause command signal to the external device via a data bus if the external device is determined to be in the play mode, as claimed. Therefore, in view of the accompanying amendments and foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Conclusion

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled. No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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E. Buckley